

**REMARKS**

Claims 17-28 are rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as containing matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that inventor(s), at the time of the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants have now amended claims 17, 19-20, and 22-28 to remove the term "absolute value independent." Therefore, claims 17-28 are now in full compliance with 35 USC §112, first paragraph.

The Examiner's comments regarding Applicants relying on Pletz-Kirsch, US 5,053,869 is not accurate. Pletz-Kirsch '869 describes a digital circuit detecting horizontal or vertical synchronizing pulses in a digital video signal. The video signal is applied to a level detector, which supplies an extreme value signal that indicates the level of the synchronizing pulse at the end of a time interval. The extreme value signal represents the extreme value of the signal, which has hitherto occurred in time interval equal the time between two consecutive synchronizing pulses.

In particular, in each period between two consecutive synchronizing pulses a new time interval is started at a predetermined instant outside the blanking interval. In order to generate a comparison signal, the extreme value is continuously reduced by a predetermined amount. The comparison signal and the digital video signal delayed by several sample clock periods are applied to a comparator 27 which supplies a synchronizing signal during those periods when

the amplitude level of the delayed video signal is higher than the level of the comparison signal.

However, Pletz-Kirsch '869 does not teach or suggest the claimed predetermined sequence having a first and second time-varying portion and a first and second non-time varying portion. Pletz-Kirsch '869 describes using the comparator 27 to supply an output signal during those periods in which the delayed video signal has a higher level than the comparison signal applied to its first input. Pletz-Kirsch '869 does not require predetermining a sequence for detecting a particular pulse.

In Pletz-Kirsch '869, the sole requirement in producing a synchronization pulse is that the delayed signal has a higher level than the comparison signal, and not that the input signal has a particular sequence, especially a sequence including various absolute value independent time-varying portions and non-time varying portions. Furthermore, the comparator 27 does not require that its synchronized signal have a slope requirement for various portions of the signal, so that the synchronized signal has a predetermined sequence.

Essentially, the claimed invention focuses on the detection of a synchronization pulse that is based on detecting a shape (i.e. non-time varying portions and time varying portions) rather relying on a comparison of the signal to a value. Therefore, Pletz-Kirsch '869 does not anticipate or make obvious claims 17-28.

In view of the above amendments and for all the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection made under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Accordingly, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding matters pending in this application, please  
feel free to contact the undersigned below.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Steinhilber Reg. No. 47,257

Matthew E. Connors  
Registration No. 33,298  
Samuels, Gauthier & Stevens  
225 Franklin Street, Suite 3300  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110  
Telephone: (617) 426-9180  
Extension : 112